

Tips on providing Social Work Home Assessments to high risk families.

Before the visit

- If you intend to go to the home accompanied by law enforcement or Child Protective Services, know the assessment team (MPs, CID, CPS, PM-CHN, etc.) and be comfortable with each member.
- Review local state statutes or governmental guidance on providing home assessments in your community.
- Schedule appointments and explain the purpose of the visit ahead of time; do not drop in unexpected for an assessment, unless you do not have an option.
- Take education packets on resources available in the community (healthy start visits for new parents, new parent support program, food pantries, and support groups for mothers...).
- Complete background checks on the family, know the history of the family before going out, and be aware of who is supposed to be in the home.
- Plan for safety. Have the police on scene for your visit if warranted, and always leave the address and phone number with your secretary or someone in your clinic.

Tips on providing Social Work Home Assessments to high risk families.

During the visit

- Respect the people whom you are assessing. Respect them through your verbal and nonverbal communication. Assess their cognitive ability and gauge the language that you use with them.
- Ask to be seated before sitting down, and look for metal or hard back chairs to sit on. Do not sit with your back to the door.
- Ask to use the rest room as an opportunity to view the inside of the home. Observe and be able to discern between untidy housekeeping and someone who is in a crisis.
- Be cognizant of when safety is an issue. If the person asks you to leave, then leave. Do not take your hand bag with you on the home visit, and be ready to leave the home quickly if you need to get out.



<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/>